

Wasatch residents seek Summit services

26 Oct 1988
KAMAS, Utah (AP) — Eastern Wasatch County homeowners who smuggle their garbage across the Provo River into Summit County to have it collected are hoping to be annexed by the neighboring county to gain its services.

Homeowners in the 15,000-acre Bench Creek and Woodland area are hoping voters in both counties will approve the annexation of about 15 homes and 100 summer cabins into Summit County this November.

Summit County officials would be happy to have the area six miles southeast of Kamas, but Wasatch County officials don't want to give up the tax base.

"We've paved roads and built bridges for that area," said Wasatch County Commis-

sioner Pete Coleman. "We don't want to lose the tax monies now."

Summit County provides snow removal, fire protection and education for the residents. Wasatch contracts with Summit for the services.

"I don't know if voters will approve this," said Summit County Commissioner Tom Flinders. "But if they do, we'd be happy to have that area in our county."

Among residents in the Bench Creek area are Debbie and Randy Fields, of Mrs. Fields Cookies Inc.

Fields said they are not among residents who leave their garbage at a church on the other side of the river, but instead pay \$200 a month to have Summit garbage drivers stop by their ranch.

"We ought to be in the jurisdiction that's prepared to take care of people who live there," said Fields. "It's a geographical problem for Wasatch to do so."

"One hundred yards away people get better fire protection and garbage pickup," he said. "Literally across the river, services are completely different. Where one house will have municipal water, on the other side of the river the household must have a well."

Tom Clyde, an attorney representing the homeowners, said residents were prompted to begin annex proceedings two years ago after Wasatch County failed to reach an agreement for fire protection with the South Summit fire department.

"Summit notified the resi-

dents that if the houses in the area caught fire, they'd let them burn," he said. "Things have been worked out since then, but it was the catalyst that got things going."

Another irritation for residents is they can't vote in school board elections where their children attend school.

"I suppose school board elections aren't that big an issue usually," said Clyde. "At least not until you're having a problem or a question about the school."

The proposal leaves out an area in Woodland Hills that's even more remote than Bench Creek. Wasatch would have to continue taking care of that area — and drive through Bench Creek to provide those services.

Woodland's Problems with Snowmobilers May Be Resolved This Year 11-28-90

Woodland residents once again asked the Wasatch County Commission, Monday, to help them solve the problems they have every year when snowmobiling begins in their area. But this time the commissioners may have found some solutions.

According to Ardean Anderson and Tom Clyde, who live on Rt. 35 in the little community that straddles the Wasatch-Summit County line, they have two main problems.

First, because the pavement ends in front of the Anderson home, at the edge of the Uintah Forest, snowmobilers have turned the area

into a trailhead. However, there isn't enough space for parking and there are no facilities. There are times when the residents don't even have access to their own property because of vehicles parked on both sides of the street. Many of the visitors stay overnight in their campers, with their generators humming and sometimes "a wild party" within 20 feet of the Andersons' bedroom window.

Mrs. Anderson said when snowmobilers have problems, they call on her and her neighbors. Snowmobilers who are lost, injured, or

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Snowmobilers...

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are involved but none are directly responsible.

The problem has to do with a state road, so the Utah Department of Transportation has jurisdiction. But the U.S. Forest Service is also involved because the snowmobiling takes place on forest service property. However, because the issue is recreation, the State Division of Parks and Recreation also has some interest.

Although Woodland is closer to Summit County emergency services and law enforcement, Mrs. Anderson's home is in Wasatch County. She said it can take up to several hours for a Wasatch deputy to respond if there isn't a serious emergency. In the meantime, it is up to her to handle the problem and "entertain" the visitors.

In addition, as Clyde put it, every time there's an emergency, there has to be a survey to decide which county to call.

The commissioners, representatives from the forest service and parks and recreation, as well as the county sheriff-elect, Mike Spanos, discussed the problems and came up with a plan that should alleviate most of them.

Clyde offered private property, closer to the forest property and away from homes, for parking. The county will provide equipment and labor to level the area. The department of transportation will be asked to provide signs designating the parking area, plow past the end of the pavement to the parking area, and to plow the parking area.

Parks and recreation officers will patrol more often than in the past and will be more diligent in trying to solve the problems, now that they are aware of them. After Spanos is sworn into office, he will work out an inter-local agreement

stranded, knock on their doors and ask to use their telephones, then stay in the warm homes until help arrives, sometimes for several hours. Sometimes the residents provide transportation for stranded snowmobilers.

Some of the residents, especially women who are home alone, are frightened at the prospect of inviting strangers in, particularly at night. At the same time they don't feel they can turn away people who appear to be in trouble.

The second problem is that the residents can't go to one government agency for help because many with the Summit County Sheriff to respond to emergency and law enforcement calls.

Parks and recreation also will discuss the problems with the Utah Snowmobile Association in hopes that they might police themselves a little better, rather than risk losing the trailhead. The association may also help clean up the area in the spring.

Wasatch County will install a telephone next to the road, where there already is a line, to discourage use of private phones. Clyde said most of the time when people ask to use residents' phones, they aren't emergencies.

Spanos also said it might be possible for someone who lives near Woodland to be trained and certified as a reserve law enforcement officer. He would be able to respond to calls quickly, issue citations when laws are violated, and otherwise help as needed.

Mrs. Anderson and her neighbors still expect to provide warm shelter and offer aid in real emergencies, and to pick up garbage. But she said the commitments that were made will make a big difference.

Woodland Residents Get Results

12-5-90

Wasatch Panel Solving Conflict At Snowmobilers' Trail Head

By Sonni Schwinn
Tribune Correspondent

HEBER CITY — Woodland residents have asked the Wasatch County Commission to help them resolve conflicts with snowmobilers, and this time the commissioners may have found solutions.

According to Ardean Anderson and Tom Clyde, who live on Utah 35 in the little community that straddles the Wasatch-Summit County line, there are two main problems.

First, because the pavement ends in front of the Anderson home at the edge of the Uinta National Forest, snowmobilers have turned the area into a trail head. However, there isn't enough space for parking and there are no toilets or other facilities.

There are times when the residents don't even have access to their own property because of vehicles on both sides of the street. Many of the visitors stay overnight in campers with electric generators humming and parties within 20 feet of the Andersons' bedroom.

Mrs. Anderson said when snowmobilers have problems, they call on her and neighbors. Lost, injured, or stranded snowmobilers ask to use their telephones, then stay in the warm homes until help arrives, sometimes for several hours. Sometimes the residents provide transportation for stranded snowmobilers.

Some of the residents, especially women who are home alone, are frightened at inviting strangers in, particularly at night. At the same time they don't feel they can turn away those who appear to be in trouble.

The second problem is that the residents can't go to one government agency for help because many agencies are involved but none are directly responsible.

The problem has to do with a state road, so the Utah Department of Transportation has jurisdiction. But the U.S. Forest Service is also involved because the snowmobiling takes place on Forest Service property. However, because the issue is recreation, the State Division of Parks and Recreation also has some interest.

Although Woodland is closer to Summit County emergency services and law enforcement, Mrs. Ander-

son's home is in Wasatch County. She said it can take up to several hours for a Wasatch deputy to respond if there isn't a serious emergency. In the meantime, she said, it is up to her to handle the problem and "entertain" the visitors.

In addition, as Clyde put it, in every emergency there has to be a survey to decide which county to call.

The commissioners, representatives from the Forest Service and Parks and Recreation, as well as the county sheriff-elect, Mike Spanos, discussed the problems and came up with a plan that should alleviate most of them.

Clyde offered private property, closer to the forest property and away from homes, for parking. The county will provide equipment and labor to level the area. The department of transportation will be asked to provide signs designating the parking area, plow past the end of the pavement to the parking area, and to plow the parking area.

Parks and Recreation officers will patrol more often than in the past and will be more diligent in trying to solve the problems, now that they are aware of them. After Spanos is sworn in, he will work out an inter-local agreement with the Summit County Sheriff to respond to emergency and law enforcement calls, he said.

Parks and Recreation also will discuss the problems with the Utah Snowmobile Association in hopes that they might police themselves rather than risk losing the trail head. The association may also help clean up the area in the spring.

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